Brooklyn College School of Business to be Named for Philanthropist Murray Koppelman '57

BROOKLYN, N.Y., July 9, 2015 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- In recognition of over $15 million mobilized to support Brooklyn College's School of Business, CUNY trustees have approved the naming of the school in honor of prominent philanthropist Murray Koppelman '57. The funds raised will advance accreditation and enhance excellence. When the process is complete, the Koppelman School will be the only accredited school of business in the borough and will provide affordable access to strong degree programs that prepare students for successful careers in the growing global economy.

"Murray Koppelman has remained a longtime friend and active supporter of the college. He is keenly aware of the importance of our mission to provide academic rigor while ensuring access for deserving students," says Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould.

"Accreditation will help us to expand opportunities for our students and support faculty who are leaders in their fields," says Willie Hopkins, the school's founding dean.

The gift will support faculty research, workshops by visiting scholars and financial industry professionals, and provide state-of-the art resources for students.

"I really care about all of the students who want to get a degree in business and are struggling in life, like I did," says Koppelman.

Raised in Borough Park, Brooklyn, Koppelman entered Brooklyn College after serving in the U.S. Army in the Korean War and received a bachelor's degree in accounting, cum laude. He quickly rose in the fields of finance and banking, serving as managing partner of an accounting firm from 1961-1968 and then as an executive vice-president and chief operating officer of D.H. Blair and Co., Inc for close to 20 years. He then became president and chief executive officer of the Manhattan-based banking firm Eastlake Securities, Inc. In 2005, Koppelman became the vice president for private client services at J.P. Morgan.
Brooklyn College School of Business to be Named for Philanthropist Murray Koppelman '57

BROOKLYN, N.Y., July 9, 2015 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- In recognition of over $15 million mobilized to support Brooklyn College's School of Business, CUNY trustees have approved the naming of the school in honor of prominent philanthropist Murray Koppelman '57. The funds raised will advance accreditation and enhance excellence. When the process is complete, the Koppelman School will be the only accredited school of business in the borough and will provide affordable access to strong degree programs that prepare students for successful careers in the growing global economy.

"Murray Koppelman has remained a longtime friend and active supporter of the college. He is keenly aware of the importance of our mission to provide academic rigor while ensuring access for deserving students," says Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould.

"Accreditation will help us to expand opportunities for our students and support faculty who are leaders in their fields," says Willie Hopkins, the school's founding dean.

The gift will support faculty research, workshops by visiting scholars and financial industry professionals, and provide state-of-the art resources for students.

"I really care about all of the students who want to get a degree in business and are struggling in life, like I did," says Koppelman.

Raised in Borough Park, Brooklyn, Koppelman entered Brooklyn College after serving in the U.S. Army in the Korean War and received a bachelor's degree in accounting, cum laude. He quickly rose in the fields of finance and banking, serving as managing partner of an accounting firm from 1961-1968 and then as an executive vice-president and chief operating officer of D.H. Blair and Co., Inc for close to 20 years. He then became president and chief executive officer of the Manhattan-based banking firm Eastlake Securities, Inc. In 2005, Koppelman became the vice president for private client services at J.P. Morgan.

Koppelman's $8.5 million gift comes on the heels of previous gifts to the College, for a total of $12.5 million. His generosity inspired an additional $2.5 million in gifts from members of the Brooklyn College Foundation Board of Trustees in his honor, for a total of $15 million in new support for the Koppelman School of Business. Read more
Law License Delayed for Immigrant Illegally Living in US

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS    JULY 8, 2015, 5:19 P.M. E.D.T.

DES MOINES, Iowa — An aspiring New York lawyer trying to become one of the few immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to be granted a law license hit a glitch Wednesday when an Iowa judge refused to prematurely end his probation on a misdemeanor conviction.

Cesar Vargas, who was 5 when his mother brought him to the U.S. from Mexico, was arrested in January for disrupting a speech by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in Des Moines. The immigration activist was convicted in June of trespassing, sentenced to a year of probation and fined $65.

The 31-year-old is applying for a law license in New York, which generally doesn't grant licenses to people on probation. Vargas asked a judge to end his probation early, and finished all other requirements of his sentence, but the judge refused Wednesday.

"It would be rare for this court to discharge anybody sooner," Judge Kevin Parker said during a hearing in Des Moines, adding that he saw no reason to allow an exception in his case.

Vargas, who went to high school and college in New York, said he accepted the decision.
"This is part of the journey," Vargas said after the hearing. "I've learned that although you need a license to be admitted as a lawyer and to represent clients, you don't need a license to advocate for your family."

In January, Vargas interrupted Christie — now a GOP presidential candidate — during an Iowa Freedom Summit gathering arranged by U.S. Rep. Steve King, an outspoken opponent of President Barack Obama's immigration policies.

Before a crowd of more than 1,000 Republicans, Vargas asked Christie if he would support deporting Vargas' 70-year-old mother, who brought the family to the U.S. in 1988. Vargas was arrested after leaving the event.

During Wednesday's hearing, Polk County prosecutor Jeff Noble said he respected Vargas' willingness to speak out on principles he believes in, but noted it was unusual for anyone placed on probation for a year to serve less than six months.

Noble also said Vargas inconvenienced the court by demanding a jury trial on a simple misdemeanor trespass charge.

After the hearing, Vargas' attorney criticized that assertion and said the county attorney's office and the Iowa Department of Corrections routinely allow people to be discharged early.

"Mr. Vargas has been consistent and loud in expressing his opinions, and the county attorney and the state doesn't like him expressing his opinions, and we think that's reflected here today," defense attorney Glen Downey said.

Vargas completed high school in New York and obtained a law degree from City University of New York School of Law. He has been allowed to remain and work in the U.S. under Obama's Deferred Actions for Childhood Arrivals policy initiated in 2012.
A New York appeals court in June said Vargas could apply for a law license — making him the first person illegally living in the U.S. to be eligible to practice as an attorney in New York and among only a few in the U.S.
Judge refuses to let immigrant activist Vargas off probation

Cesar Vargas’ fight to become the first undocumented immigrant lawyer in New York state is on hold after a Polk County judge chose to keep him on probation for disrupting a summit of Republican presidential hopefuls.

But the Mexican-born activist said he won’t stop speaking out on immigration issues at political events. Vargas, 31, was charged in January with trespassing at the Iowa Freedom Summit at the privately-owned Hoyt Sherman Place for interrupting a speech by Chris Christie. Vargas shouted from the balcony to ask whether the New Jersey governor would support deporting the activist’s 70-year-old mother.

“I will continue to advocate for the reasons that I came to Iowa for,” Vargas said outside the courthouse Wednesday. “I think that immigration is an issue that is important for our country, and I will continue to make sure our voices are heard.”

Vargas came to the United States from Mexico at age five with his mother and siblings. He passed the New York bar exam in 2011 after graduating from City University of New York School of Law and hoped to practice immigration and criminal law.

A state committee in 2013 denied him a license due to uncertainty over whether an undocumented immigrant could practice in the state. A New York appellate court in June overturned that decision.

But Vargas’ one-year probation for the Iowa simple misdemeanor is at odds with a New York policy against admitting new lawyers while they’re on probation. At the Wednesday morning hearing, Des Moines attorney Glen Downey argued that Iowa law allows Vargas to be released from his low-risk probation after he did a short interview with a probation officer and paid a $300 fine.

However, District Judge Kevin Parker said it’s uncommon for somebody to be taken off probation after just one month, even if it’s allowed by law. “I can’t remember ever doing it,” he said. “You’re not any exception to anybody else.”

The decision casts uncertainty over what will happen next with Vargas’ bid to become a lawyer. It’s up to a New York committee on character and fitness to decide whether to lift the probation and admit him to the bar, Vargas said. Some sort of decision could be made in the coming weeks.

More than 1,200 people signed a Change.org petition (https://www.change.org/p/polk-county-attorney-john-sarzone-allow-dreamer-cesar-vargas-to-practice-law-by-dropping-his-probation) asking Democrat Polk County Attorney John Sarzone’s office to drop its resistance to Vargas’ request to be let off probation early. Activists circulated the main phone number to Sarzone’s downtown Des Moines office on Twitter, urging people to call and voice their opinions.

Vargas’ legal fight has attracted support from Democratic U.S. senators and congressmen. But Assistant Polk County Attorney Jeff Noble told Parker that Vargas was exploiting his stature in asking for special treatment.

“I support him in the fact that he’s been able to reach those pinnacles given the challenges he has faced,” Noble said. “My fear is today he will become a symbol for the proposition that we do treat some people different in the criminal justice system if they’re willing to step in front of the camera, if they’re willing to talk with a Des Moines Register reporter, if they’re willing to argue their case and have enough friends writing letters to the court.”

Noble also told the judge that Vargas “inconvenienced” police, judges and the jurors who served during the two-day trial.

It was offensive that the prosecutor characterized Vargas’ jury trial as an inconvenience when a jury trial is a right guaranteed to all criminal defendants by the U.S. Constitution, Downey said. Vargas was not asking for any sort of special treatment, only what’s allowable under Iowa law, he said.

“I’m sorry the Constitution is an inconvenience for the state of Iowa,” he said after the hearing.

After graduating law school, Vargas co-founded the DREAMER Action Coalition, an immigrant-rights advocacy group. In February 2013, he was authorized by the federal government to stay in the U.S. under President Barack Obama’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.
NEW YORK - New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order appointing the attorney general as a special prosecutor in matters relating to deaths of unarmed civilians by law enforcement.

The governor's office says the order also allows the special prosecutor to review questions whenever there is a question whether the civilian was armed and dangerous at the time of his or her death.

"In December, I stood with reform advocates and other public officials to call attention to the crisis in confidence related to the investigation of deaths of unarmed civilians at the hands of police," Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said. "Today, Governor Cuomo has issued an executive order to empower my office to investigate and, where appropriate, prosecute such cases. I can imagine no more important responsibility, and my office will handle these cases with the highest level of care, professionalism, and independence."

Governor Cuomo signed the order at the CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

Full Executive Order:

No. 147

EXECUTIVE ORDER

A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE MATTERS RELATING TO THE DEATHS OF CIVILIANS CAUSED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of New York obliges the Governor to take care that the laws of New York are faithfully executed; and

WHEREAS, I have solemnly sworn, pursuant to Article 13, Section 1 of the Constitution, to support the Constitution and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Governor; and

WHEREAS, there have been recent incidents involving the deaths of unarmed civilians that have challenged the public's confidence and trust in our system of criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, public concerns have been raised that such incidents cannot be prosecuted at the local level without conflict or bias, or the public perception of conflict or bias; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to ensure that a full, reasoned, and independent investigation and prosecution...
any such incident is conducted without conflict or bias, or the perception of conflict or bias; and

WHEREAS, the foregoing compels me to conclude that my constitutional obligations provide that in cases where an issue of a real or perceived conflict of interest exists, and to ensure full confidence in our system of criminal justice, a special prosecutor should be appointed with respect to such incidents. Such appointment of a special prosecutor will supersede in all ways the authority and jurisdiction of a county district attorney to manage, interpret, prosecute or inquire about such incidents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDREW M. CUOMO, Governor of the State of New York, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New York, and particularly by subdivision 2 of section 63 of the Executive Law, hereby require the Attorney General (hereinafter, the "special prosecutor") to investigate, and if warranted, prosecute certain matters involving the death of an unarmed civilian, whether in custody or not, caused by a law enforcement officer, as listed in subdivision 34 of section 1.20 of the Criminal Procedure Law. The special prosecutor may also investigate and prosecute in such instances where, in his opinion, there is a significant question as to whether the civilian was armed and dangerous at the time of his or her death;

FURTHER, for any matter covered herein, the special prosecutor shall have the powers and duties specified in subdivisions 2 and 8 of section 63 of the Executive Law for purposes of this Order, and shall possess and exercise all the prosecutorial powers necessary to investigate, and if warranted, prosecute the incident. The special prosecutor's jurisdiction will displace and supersede the jurisdiction of the county district attorney where the incident occurred; and such county district attorney shall have only the powers and duties designated to him or her by the special prosecutor as specified in subdivision 2 of section 63 of the Executive Law;

FURTHER, for any matter covered herein, the special prosecutor shall conduct a full, reasoned, and independent investigation including, but not limited to, (i) gathering and analyzing evidence, (ii) conducting witness interviews, and (iii) reviewing investigative reports, scientific reports, and audio and video recordings;

FURTHER, for any matter covered herein, the special prosecutor shall, (i) attend in person, a term or terms of the County or Supreme Court to be held in and for the County of such appropriate jurisdiction consistent with this Order, (ii) appear in person before any grand jury drawn for any term(s) of said court, for the purpose of conducting any and all proceedings, examinations, and inquires, and (iii) bring any and all criminal actions and proceedings which may be had or taken before said grand jury and other grand juries concerning or relating to any and all alleged unlawful acts as described by this Order;

FURTHER, for any matter covered herein, the special prosecutor will provide to me, or my designee, a report on all cases where, (i) the special prosecutor declines to present evidence to a grand jury regarding the death of a civilian as described in this Order, whether in custody or not, allegedly caused by a law enforcement officer, or (ii) the grand jury declines to return an indictment on any charges. The report will include, to the extent possible and lawful, an explanation of that outcome and any recommendations for systemic reform arising from the investigation.

This Executive Order shall continue until modified, suspended or terminated by the Governor.

G I V E N under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State in the City of Albany this eighth day of July in the year two thousand fifteen.

BY THE GOVERNOR
Gov. Cuomo appoints attorney general as special prosecutor

Posted on July 9, 2015 at 2:20 pm by Matthew Hamilton in Andrew Cuomo, Bulletin, Criminal Justice, Eric Schneiderman

State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman now can choose to intervene in cases involving the death of an unarmed civilian at the hands of police.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order bestowing that power to the AG Wednesday afternoon. It's now at Schneiderman's discretion if he wants his office to step in as a special prosecutor when an unarmed civilian is killed in a confrontation with police during the course of regular duty. He also could choose to step in in cases where there are questions about whether a civilian was armed and dangerous.

"The situation that we are addressing is a crisis," Cuomo said at the signing in Manhattan. "It's a crisis in this state, and it's a crisis nationwide. It's a crisis in confidence in the criminal justice system. It's a crisis of trust. And the system does not work without trust."

Schneiderman called the order a step toward an end to a system of "mass arrest and mass incarceration."

The order would be good for one year and is a stop-gap as Cuomo and the Legislature try to hammer out a more permanent solution. Special prosecutor legislation was not agreed to before the end of this legislative session, leading Cuomo to promise to sign an executive order.

While Assembly Democrats support and passed such a policy, Senate Republicans have been cool to the idea, siding more with district attorneys who fear they will be stepped on or undermined.

Speaking to reporters in Albany Wednesday, state Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan repeatedlegislations that the Senate GOP has had about a special prosecutor. But Cuomo ultimately is issuing the temporary order without pushback from the legislative leaders.

"That was a radical departure from a grand jury process that has existed for almost like 200 years," Flanagan said. "This is one time where listening to people who are prosecutors in part of their professional lives was extraordinarily helpful. The governor has a prerogative to do that ... we did not agree and did not support legislation that would have provided a monitor or something of that nature."

Flanagan said he has strong faith in the justice system as it exists and he believes the GOP would push back on prosecutorial reform legislation advanced next year. Flanagan said he is sure Schneiderman would fulfill his responsibilities under the order.

For his part, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie has been on board with these types of reforms. Candice Malcolm, the mother of slain Bronx teenager Ramarley Graham, is a consultant he consulted with on reforms, and Heastie said it would be a shame if we didn't have a top-down review of the criminal justice system because I think me serving as speaker would be in vain if we didn't do that."

Malcolm sat next to Heastie and Cuomo at the signing.

"Do you argue all they went," Malcolm said. "But it's been decades long (the) record of failures in these cases."

Cuomo noted that even if a conflict of interest, given that district attorneys often work closely with local police, isn't directly present, the perception of a conflict of interest can erode trust in the justice system.

"The theory of the perceived or actual conflict is that a local district attorney is working with that police department intimately on a day in and day out basis and that relationship could pose a conflict," Cuomo said in a brief Q&A with reporters. "The attorney general is in a different situation. He is elected, he is elected statewide, not by any particular county. And he does not have that level of relationship with the police department that could pose that conflict."

The full release from the governor's office, including the text of the executive order, is below:

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today issued Executive Order No. 147, which appoints the New York State Attorney General as a special prosecutor in matters relating to the deaths of unarmed civilians caused by law enforcement officers. The order also allows the special prosecutor to review cases where there is a question whether the civilian was armed and dangerous at the time of his or her death. The Governor signed the Executive Order this afternoon at
Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, President of NAACP New York State Conference said: "This is a significant executive order that will ensure that communities of color including African Americans, Latinos and other minorities are protected from police misconduct. With this order a special prosecutor will have the power to review, investigate and prosecute cases where unarmed civilians are killed. We thank Governor Andrew Cuomo for his vision and commitment to protect all our communities."

Russell Simmons said: "I applaud Governor Cuomo for living up to his promise to sign an executive order appointing a special prosecutor for cases involving the deaths of unarmed civilians by law enforcement. This shows that leadership by Governor Cuomo should spark a shift across the entire country, where every state has special, impartial prosecutors that investigate these cases. There is a dire need for broad reform of the criminal justice system in order to restore the trust between the community and law enforcement, and I believe this is a step in the right direction. However, I urge the New York State legislature to pass comprehensive reform when they return to session." 

Michael Hardy, Executive Vice President & General Counsel of National Action Network said: "This executive order is exactly what we needed in New York to guarantee that cases of police-involved civilian deaths are investigated to the fullest extent of the law. I want to applaud Governor Cuomo for taking this step, because it's one that our state—and our nation—needed greatly. I hope that other states will follow our lead to bring trust back to the judicial system."

Sofiyah Elijah, Executive Director of the Correctional Association of New York said: "Governor Cuomo's appointment of the Attorney General as Special Prosecutor in these troubling cases hopefully signals a new era of accountability that is critical in ensuring an objective process immune from political agendas."

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said: "In December, I stood with reform advocates and other public officials to call attention to the crisis in confidence related to the investigation of deaths of unarmed civilians at the hands of police. Today, Governor Cuomo has issued an executive order to empower my office to investigate and when appropriate, prosecute such cases. I can imagine no more important responsibility, and my office will handle these cases with the highest level of care, professionalism, and independence."

Former Governor David Paterson said: "For the families and friends who have lost a loved one to an altercation with police officers, this is welcome news. Appointing a special prosecutor will ensure that justice is served fairly and that these cases are given the required attention and trust moving forward. I applaud Governor Cuomo for once again stepping up to a controversial issue and making it happen."

Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie said: "I hope this Executive Order will provide some measure of comfort for families, because these are cases that deserve an independent review to ensure that justice is served. Along with Governor Cuomo, we will continue the fight for a new law which would allow for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate cases when deadly force by a police officer is used. This will help to restore the public's confidence in our justice system and ensure that these proceedings are fair and impartial."

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries said: "In a democracy, everyone is entitled to equal protection under the law. However, when a police officer crosses the line and appears to use excessive force the criminal justice system often fails to hold that officer accountable. That must change. When a police officer takes the life of an unarmed civilian there should be a fair and objective investigation. The most effective way to bring this about is through the appointment of an independent prosecutor. Governor Cuomo should be commended for his vision and resolve in leadership in this regard."

Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright said: "In the wake of widespread community outcry and countless instances of injustice, appointing the Attorney General as special prosecutor in cases of police misconduct is the right step for New York. For decades I have been championing this effort in the legislature, and I am confident this will help restore trust between our communities and the police while ensuring justice to victims of these heinous crimes. New Yorkers stand to benefit greatly from Governor Cuomo's executive action and I look forward to continuing our collective efforts to develop a permanent solution that includes grand jury reform."

Senator Adriano Espaillat said: "In recent months, communities across the nation have been torn by police-involved incidents of civilian deaths that have eroded the trust in our criminal justice system. I applaud Governor Cuomo's appointment of the attorney general as a special prosecutor in cases of police-involved civilian deaths, and look forward to continuing to work with him to find a permanent solution. In the interim I trust that Attorney General Eric Schneiderman will be a fair special prosecutor."

Senator Gustavo Rivera said: "This executive order is a positive step in light of the failure of the Republican led Senate in passing meaningful criminal justice reform. We will go forward in finding the public's trust in our criminal justice system and we need to pass a permanent solution in the legislature. We have a broken system that can no longer be fixed, all New Yorkers equally under the law and I commend Governor Cuomo for taking this important step in reforming it."

Senator Ruben Hassell-Thompson said: "From Ramstey Graham to Michael Brown, our nation has seen too many deaths at the hands of law enforcement. Thanks to Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York is making the statement that these tragic cases will be handled with independence and fairness. Just one death is too many, and by appointing a special prosecutor, this state is taking a courageous step in the right direction."

Assemblyman Michael Blake said: "Today, the moral arc of the universe definitely bent towards justice as I congratulate Governor Cuomo on signing the executive order appointing Attorney General Eric Schneiderman as a special prosecutor. As Co-Chair of the Criminal Justice committee of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus, we pushed for this victory as part of our "Black, Brown & Latino" criminal justice package to stand
A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE MATTERS RELATING TO THE DEATHS OF CIVILIANS CAUSED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of New York compels the Governor to take care that the laws of New York are faithfully executed; and

WHEREAS, I have solemnly sworn, pursuant to Article 13, Section 1 of the Constitution, to support the Constitution and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Governor; and

WHEREAS, there have been recent incidents involving the deaths of unarmed civilians that have challenged the public's confidence in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the deaths of unarmed civilians have been named in suits that are pending in the courts; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and important that a special prosecutor be appointed to conduct an independent investigation and prosecution of any such incident, to the fullest extent of the law, to determine the facts and circumstances of such incidents; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of a special prosecutor should be made in the interest of justice and in the interest of the public's confidence in the criminal justice system; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDREW M. CUOMO, Governor of the State of New York, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New York, and particularly by subdivision 2 of section 63 of the Executive Law, hereby appoint Andrew M. Cuomo (hereinafter the "special prosecutor") to investigate, and if warranted, prosecute certain matters relating to the deaths of unarmed civilians, whether in custody or not, and to make recommendations to the appropriate authorities in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

FURTHER, for any matter covered herein, the special prosecutor shall have the power and duties specified in subdivisions 2 and 8 of section 63 of the Executive Law, and shall perform and exercise all the powers necessary to investigate and prosecute the incidents. The special prosecutor's jurisdiction shall not be limited to any specific location or jurisdiction, but shall extend to all areas where incidents related to the deaths of unarmed civilians have occurred.

FURTHER, for any matter covered herein, the special prosecutor shall perform the duties specified in subdivisions 2 and 8 of section 63 of the Executive Law, and shall perform and exercise all the powers necessary to investigate and prosecute the incidents. The special prosecutor's jurisdiction shall not be limited to any specific location or jurisdiction, but shall extend to all areas where incidents related to the deaths of unarmed civilians have occurred.

FURTHER, for any matter covered herein, the special prosecutor shall conduct a full, independent investigation of any matter referred to him or her by the Governor, and shall file a report with the Governor and the Attorney General on the findings and recommendations of the investigation.

FURTHER, for any matter covered herein, the special prosecutor shall prepare and file a report with the Governor and the Attorney General on the findings and recommendations of the investigation.

This Executive Order shall continue in effect until modified, suspended or terminated by the Governor.
Hunter College student bit victim after ‘rape’ attempt failed

By Shawn Cohen
July 8, 2015 | 10:16pm

A 21-year-old woman fought off a rape attempt by a fellow student who burst into her private study room at the Hunter College library, sources told The Post on Wednesday.

The alleged victim was reading alone at around 7:15 p.m. Monday in a room she had
reserved when the man came in and asked for directions to the bathroom.

When she looked up, he exposed himself and then pounced on her, but she was able to push him off, the sources said. When she snapped pictures of him as he fled, he charged back, bit her, took her phone and ran off.

A suspect, Kareem Royes, 25 — was arrested Wednesday at 3:30 a.m. at his Bronx home — because he reportedly used his own student ID to enter the Upper East Side library and was captured on library video, the sources said.

Royes, a married father of a 4-year-old girl and a licensed taxi driver with a prior arrest for exposing himself on the subway, was held in lieu of $60,000 bond on charges of second-degree robbery and public lewdness, police said.

Hunter has suspended him pending an investigation.
Breaking Down the City Budget

by Catie Edmondson & Zehra Rehman, Jul 09, 2015
Wednesday, July 1, marked the beginning of the new fiscal year under a $78.6 billion budget (http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/city-council-approves-nyc-78-6-billion-2016-budget-article-1.2273168) agreed upon by Mayor Bill de Blasio and the City Council.

When he unveiled his preliminary budget outline in February, de Blasio hailed (http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/no-increased-nypd-headcount-budget-article-1.2214098?cid=bitly) the plan as "scrupulously fiscally responsible." The 2016 budget continues a trend of increased spending: from 2010 to 2014, the budget increased at an average of around 4 percent per year. The first budget of the de Blasio administration increased spending by 6.3 percent. Now, the second de Blasio budget has grown 5.2 percent from 2015.

"[Fiscal 2015] was his first year and he was able to implement a lot of his new initiatives," explained Rachel Bardin of Citizens Budget Commission, a nonpartisan and nonprofit civic organization. The increased spending went toward funding programs like universal pre-K (#/0), issuing municipal IDs (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/01/12/new-york-municipal-id_n_6455846.html), and homelessness prevention. Spending also increased as the mayor settled (http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2015/02/8562562/three-more-unions-settle-city-hall) contracts with labor unions - de Blasio inherited a situation where all of the city's municipal unions were working under expired contracts.

This year, the budget has grown again, raising several eyebrows. Part of this growth is due to an increase in personnel, including the hiring of an additional 1,297 police officers. An increased city headcount is expensive not only due to annual salaries, but also because of health care and pension costs. While de Blasio has expanded spending, he has also grown the savings funds the city keeps, able to do both because of the flush times the city is enjoying.

The trend of growth in spending has prompted a cautious attitude in some, including city Comptroller Scott Stringer, who called (http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2015/06/8569743/stringer-urge-more-savings-de-blassio) on the de Blasio administration to find steeper agency savings and allocate more money toward budgetary reserves. Bardin, of CBC, warns of the implications of the uptick in spending if there is an economic downturn— the likelihood
of which is “inevitable,” according to a CBC statement (http://www.cbcny.org/content/cbc-statement-fy16-adopted-budget-new-york-city). De Blasio and his budget team agree. The mayor struck a very serious tone during his May executive budget presentation, warning that the economy will certainly not continue to grow as it has been.

“We have additional spending built into the budget and our revenues in the downturn wouldn’t be able to support that,” Bardin told Gotham Gazette. With insufficient funds to support the increased spending, a situation could occur in which the city must consider raising taxes, laying off employees, and ending or reducing programs.

But Doug Turetsky, Chief of Staff for the Independent Budget Office, pushed back against the idea of an inevitable economic downturn and cited the unprecedented $1 billion the administration just put into the city’s general reserve fund (http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-05-07/de-blasio-s-78-3-billion-budget-boosts-aid-for-nyc-homelessness). During the previous administration, the fund typically contained $300 million, Capital New York reported (http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2015/06/8569743/stringer-urge-more-savings-de-blasio).

“Neither we nor the administration has forecasted a downturn,” Turetsky said. “We both forecast slower job growth than we’ve seen in the last couple of years but we still see a growing economy. It’s a risk because there hasn’t been this long of an expansion in forever. But there’s always risks in any forecast.”

At a CBC event in May, New York City Budget Director Dean Fuleihan said that the city has set aside funds in three different reserves. “We have been extremely cautious and realistic in our projections,” he said. “Even though we are in a growing economy, we will continue to come back and do more and more on savings.”

Meanwhile, the City Council has been trying to further increase transparency by calling for more units of appropriation (http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2015/04/8566061/capital-data-why-council-mad-about-units-appropriation) within the budget, that is more line items with specifics of which programs are being funded. Council Member Julissa Ferreras, who chairs the Council’s finance committee and helps lead budget negotiations with the mayor’s administration, has had several public exchanges with Fuleihan where she has insisted on greater transparency via units of appropriation. In announcing the final budget, Ferreras trumpeted increased specificity, but said there is more work to be done.
While Bardin feels that the spending plan is largely transparent, she added, "There are certain items that are difficult to track within the budget."

In an effort at greater transparency, we break down the budget below. First, it is important to note that the "city budget" most refer to and that we have discussed thus far is the expense budget, for operational, programmatic, and personnel expenses, which for fiscal 2016 is $78.6 billion. This includes money to be spent by the City Council and by City Council members in their districts. There is also the city's capital budget, money dedicated for construction and infrastructure spending. In this big bucket there is also spending by the Council and individual members.

Expense Budget—$78.6B
The expense budget funds city government services. All city agencies, the City Council, and the borough presidents get their operational funding from the expense budget, as do the Comptroller and the Public Advocate; including funding for salaries and pensions of city employees and other operational costs of government offices such as rent, utilities, and office supplies.

The budget includes $21.9 billion for the Department of Education, $5.1 billion for the NYPD, and $9.7 billion to the Department of Social Services. It includes $61 million for the City Council, $94 million for the Comptroller’s Office; and $3.4 million for the Public Advocate’s Office.

This year’s expense budget includes $25 million for the Borough Presidents’ offices, appropriating $5.8 million to the Brooklyn borough president, $5.65 million to the Bronx borough president, $5.15 million to Queens, $4.7 million to Manhattan and allocated $4.3 million for the Staten Island borough president.
The expense budget also funds the city's debt service—money required to cover the repayment of interest and principal on a debt. The city's 2015-2016 expense budget allocates $2.93 billion for debt service.

**Schedule C - $52.6 million**

City Council discretionary funds make up a relatively small portion of the expense budget, but are traditionally among the most scrutinized pieces of the budget, and released in a document (http://council.nyc.gov/html/budget/2016/skedcf.pdf) called “Schedule C.” Council members are allocated discretionary funds to give to nonprofit organizations that benefit their district and constituents.

In May 2014, reforms were made in an attempt to make the distribution of these funds more equal and transparent— the allocation was previously controlled at the whims of the Speaker, who could use the discretionary funds to reward allies and punish enemies. Reforms ushered in under new Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and other members brought a uniform system, with each Council member now receiving a base of $400,000, and an additional $25,000, $50,000, $75,000, or $100,000 based on the poverty level of their district. Council members receiving the maximum amount of $500,000 include Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Fernando Cabrera, Vanessa Gibson, and Ritchie Torres—all from the Bronx—as well as Mark-Viverito, who represents East Harlem and part of the Bronx.

As Speaker, Mark-Viverito also has access to an additional $16 million, for allocating what is known as the 'Speaker's List,' money to go to organizations and initiatives at the Speaker's discretion and at the request of Council members.
This year, the Speaker’s List heavily funds projects in Brooklyn, including allocating $340,000 to the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce; $255,000 to Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation; and $250,000 to El Puente Williamsburg, a community human rights organization. Eric Adams, the Brooklyn Borough President, was also the only borough president who received additional funding (#VZK3qe3BwXA) — $100,000 — from the Council for employee compensation. Adams’ office also received $100,000 last year for “personal services enhancement,” along with that of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. Though some have said Brooklyn has long been underfunded despite being the most populous borough, others point to political favors or special needs as the borough booms.

Two organizations that see the most funding by the Council are Catholic Charities Community Services, which is set to receive $666,000 ($130,000 from the Speaker herself, using both funds allocated to her as a council member and the Speaker’s List) and the Hispanic Federation ($166,000 funded by the Speaker).

Capital Budget: $13.9B
The capital budget is distinct from the expense budget, and used to finance large physical infrastructure projects. The infrastructure funded through the capital budget can be either for government use, such as government offices or for public use, such as roads, schools, and parks. For any project to be funded from the capital budget, it should cost at least $35,000 and be useable for at least five years, according to the IBO. Almost all capital funding goes through city agencies. The capital budget also includes discretionary funds for Council members and borough presidents.

Last year, 24 Council Members chose to implement the 2014-2015 cycle of participatory budgeting (http://www.gothamgazette.com/index.php/government/5152-twenty-plus-council-members-implement-participatory-budgeting-nyc-fourth-year), a process in which district constituents are allowed to propose projects and vote on how a portion of the capital funds their council member has control over should be used ($1-2 million per district).

Additionally, the five borough presidents are given the power (http://manhattanbp.nyc.gov/html/budget/budget.shtml) by the City Charter to allot portions (this year 5 percent) of the city’s capital budget to fund construction projects or improvements to infrastructure. Those portions are then allocated to city agencies or nonprofit organizations. In late June, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer announced her office would allocate $30 million in capital grants to projects including playground and athletic field restorations at public parks and tech improvements at CUNY and SUNY campuses.
Queens Borough President Melinda Katz announced that she would allocate $200,000 of her capital funds to purchase and install real-time bus countdown clocks at the borough's busiest bus stops.

"Capital grants give us the opportunity to both fix nagging problems and invest in our neighborhoods' future," Brewer said in a statement sent to press. "Whether we're fixing the roof at a branch library, renovating a playground, or building out a new computer lab at a local school, these capital grants are going to strengthen our communities and improve people's lives."
NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton swears in 'most diverse' NYPD academy classes of 1,250 recruits

BY THOMAS TRACY / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Published: Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 9:27 AM
/ Updated: Thursday, July 9, 2015, 4:41 AM

nydn.us/1LRZUTK
Police Commissioner Bill Bratton swore in around 1,217 NYPD recruits at Queens College in Kew Gardens on Wednesday.

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton swore in "one of the most diverse" academy classes the NYPD has ever seen Wednesday as he welcomed nearly 1,250 recruits to the ranks.

"(This is) one of our largest classes in recent memory," Bratton told row upon row of young men and women eager to take the oath of office at Queens College in Kew Gardens Hills. "(It) truly reflects this city in this region of diversity."

Bratton swore in 1,217 recruits for the next academy class. An additional 30 were also given the oath so they can fill in spots as recruits drop out over the course of the next six months.

The class has the highest number of women ever seen — 22%. It is also 17% black, the highest number seen in more than a decade, according to NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Training Michael Julian.

Bratton said 650 more recruits will be sworn in this October to uphold a promise by Mayor De Blasio to hire more cops.

Mayor adds 1,300 new cops as part of 2016's budget

NY Daily News

He also said he plans to streamline hiring so it won't take four years to complete the process.

"I want to thank you all for your patience," Bratton said.
Bratton welcomes new NYPD recruits

The New York Police Department inducted 1,217 new recruits into the police academy on Wednesday—one of the largest and most diverse classes in recent memory.

"At a ceremony in Queens College, Police Commissioner Bill Bratton told the recruits that they "are the beginning of a transformation" in policing in the city. The training and equipment they receive will be "unlike anything any American police officer ever experienced," he said.

About 17 percent of the class is African-American, the highest percentage in years, Bratton said. Seven hundred and fifty of the recruits—62 percent—are city residents. The average age is 26. More than 450 have bachelor's degrees, 23 have master's degrees, and there is one recruit with a law degree. Police cadet classes are usually around 800 people, but the new class was expanded as part of the city's plan to hire 1,297 additional officers.

"We are totally changing how you were selected, how you were trained and how you go into the field," Bratton told the recruits. The application process—which could last up to four years, from testing to academy induction—will be reduced to one year. The NYPD and the Guardians Association, an organization of black police officers, actively reached out to individual minority candidates who dropped out during the lengthy application process. Ads to attract new recruits have been changed, to emphasis the need for compassion, rather than action. And this class is only the second to undergo a revamped training process that Bratton helped design after he returned to the NYPD in January, 2014.
Also, unlike prior rookie officers, when these recruits graduate the academy, they will be placed in local precincts alongside veteran officers who will mentor them for six months. Previously, new recruits were assigned to high-crime areas where, Bratton has previously said, rookies lacked sufficient oversight and could potentially develop bad habits.

In a speech last week to new graduates from the NYPD academy last week, Bratton detailed how poorly trained he was when he became a police officer after seven weeks of training in Boston in 1970.

Mayor Bill de Blasio was not on hand. He and his family are finishing an eight-day vacation in the southwest.
FLUSHING — The NYPD is streamlining its hiring process for new police officers in an effort to be more "welcoming" towards new recruits. Commissioner Bill Bratton (http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/people/bill-bratton) announced at the swearing-in of the latest class of officers.

In a new system that will begin after the current class, the NYPD will offer one test per year and hire from that test — as opposed to the average three to four years the incoming class of 1,217 officers had to wait between taking their exam and entering the academy, he said.

During the application process, half of the applicants traditionally drop out, Bratton said.

"We're focused on welcoming you into the NYPD in a respectful way, in a way in which the value that we place in you is reflected in how we receive you — as an applicant and certainly now as a recruit," he told the new trainees at their swearing-in Wednesday at Queens College.
The new recruits are the first to enter the College Point police academy since the City Council and Mayor Bill de Blasio approved funding for 1,300 more officers in the latest budget.

The additional money for officers also allowed Bratton to end a longstanding process of using "standby" recruits.

But this year, the dozens of standby recruits were given a pleasant surprise from Bratton who notified them at Wedneday's swearing-in ceremony that they, too, would take the oath and enter the academy, which graduates in December.

"That to me sounds like a crazy system," Bratton said about the standby recruits who he called "fill-ins."

"It's not fair to them, it's not fair to employers."

The 1,217 new officers will be the second class with revamped training and features more minority recruits than ever before, Bratton said.

We have made a significant investment in you and you are making a significant investment in us," he told the academy's latest class.
Bratton vows to get gang members after killer shot dad holding baby

By Shawn Cohen, Lorena Mongelli, Kevin Fasick and Daniel Prendergast
July 8, 2015 | 5:00pm

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton
Photo: Getty Images

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton on Wednesday ripped the gunman who fatally shot a Bronx dad as he was holding his baby in his arms.

“They have a total lack of consciousness about human dignity and human life,” Bratton
said following a swearing in at Queens College for 1,200 new police recruits.

Bratton said Allen McQueen was a "very active gang member," with a long rap sheet, and added that his death was most likely the result of an ongoing war between two rival crews.

"No matter how much of a criminal record the individual holding the baby had, to basically assassinate that individual in full view of a public playground, I think the public can fully appreciate continuing in expanding efforts to get these individuals off the streets," he added.

"We will do everything we can to scoop them up."

McQueen was taking 1-year-old daughter Taylor to a playground near his Parkchester home when the gunman opened fire around 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, cops said.

The 21-year-old father tried to shield the child as he ran from the shooter, who eventually caught up with him, firing a bullet through his head.

Drenched in her father's blood, Taylor fell to the ground before a good Samaritan picked up the crying toddler and rushed her to safety.

Sources said McQueen was a member of the Taylor Crew, which has been at war lately with the rival Leland Crew. It was not immediately clear which gang the killer is affiliated with.

McQueen had been arrested 23 times for crimes ranging from robbery, drugs and weapons possession. He was shot last summer and had a sealed arrest for an attempted murder from 2014.

He was also being eyed as a possible suspect in a Bronx shooting from this past March.

Meanwhile, friends of the slain dad gathered near the murder scene on Taylor Avenue near Guerlain Street where a makeshift memorial had been set up.

"There are too many guns and not enough police on the corners," said a woman who identified herself as Keemaa, and claimed to be McQueen's ex-girlfriend.
NYU, Rutgers Top List of Schools Jews Choose

Twenty-seven percent of New York University's undergraduate student population is Jewish, and the Manhattan private school was also the top choice for Jewish students nationwide, a survey by Hillel International of the top choices for Jewish students among private and public schools revealed.

At the top of the public schools list was Rutgers University, in New Jersey, where the 6,400 Jewish students made up 19% of the undergraduate population.

Next on the list of public schools was University of Central Florida, making the school's 6,000 Jewish students 12 percent of the total undergrad population. The University of Maryland (5,800, 22%), Pennsylvania State University (5,000, 12%) and University of Florida, Gainesville (5,000, 15%), rounded out the top five choices among Jewish students in 2014, according to the list.

A full 29% of the undergrad population at CUNY, Brooklyn College, was Jewish.

Among private schools, Boston University was the next most popular choice, after NYU, with 3,500 Jewish students. Perhaps unsurprisingly, 100% of Yeshiva University's 3,076 undergraduate population was Jewish, though only 20% of its graduate student population belonged to the Jewish faith.

Cornell University (3,000, 21%) and Washington DC's George Washington University (3,000, 29%) rounded off the top five choices for private schools.

A full 40% of the all-women's school, Barnard College (also in Manhattan) were Jewish students — 1,000 of 2,500 students.
National Board of Review Awards Grants to 23 Student Filmmakers (Exclusive)

MOVIES | By Joe Otterson on July 8, 2015 @ 4:37 pm

In addition, one student will be awarded the Marion Carter Green Award

The National Board of Review will be awarding grant money through its annual Student Grant Program to 23 filmmakers, including nine graduate students and 14 undergraduate students, the organization announced Wednesday.

The students were selected from schools including Brooklyn College, City College, Columbia University, Hunter College, Ringling College of Art Design, New York University and Wesleyan
In addition to the student grants, one student film will also be granted the Marion Carter Green Award. The honor is an endowed prize given annually by the NBR to an outstanding short student film that exhibits noteworthy use of musical elements.

Also Read: ‘Teen Beach 2’ Stars Help Teach Kids About Robotics

The award is made possible through the generosity of Laurence Mark, honoring the memory of Green, his mother and long-time NBR Board member.

Light Iron Digital and Senior Post, two New York City post-production facilities, partnered with the NBR to award the 2015 student grants. Returning as grant partner, Light Iron Digital will award $5,000 in services to a grant winner. In its first year as grant partner, Senior Post will offer a special $5,000 prize, as well as $5,000 in services, to one grant winner.

Also Read: Jamie Lee Curtis Gives Advice to Graduating Students With Autism: Aim High

Through the Student Grant Program, the National Board of Review’s objective is to emphasize the future of cinematic by helping young filmmakers finish their projects and exhibit them globally at film festivals like Sundance, Slamdance, Telluride and New Directors/New Films, among others.

Over the years, several filmmakers have won Student Academy Awards. The NBR also helps young filmmakers by supporting community organizations, such as the The Ghetto Film School, Reel Works Teen Filmmaking and Educational Video Center. The NBR’s core activities include fostering commentary on all aspects of film production, as well as underwriting educational film programs and seminars for film students.